

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

10. (New) A method for selectively separating live cells which have expressed mRNA comprising:

a first step of determining a site of the mRNA that has high accessibility for oligonucleotide probe hybridization and preparing a probe, labeled with a fluorescent dye, having a base sequence complementary to the base sequence of the thus determined site;

a second step of introducing the probe capable of labeling mRNA into cells in a live cell group containing live cells which have expressed a specific mRNA;

a third step of labeling said mRNA with said probe to obtain a live cell group containing live cells having the labeled mRNA which is hybrid of the probe and said mRNA; and

a fourth step of detecting said labeled mRNA by irradiating light to the live cell group containing live cells having the hybrid and by identifying live cells which cause a change in fluorescence of said fluorescent dye based on formation of the hybrid, and separating the identified live cells selectively from said live cell group.

11. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the probe comprises a first probe and a second probe, the first probe and the second probe have base sequences complementary to said mRNA and capable of hybridizing thereto adjacently, and the first probe is labeled with an energy donor fluorescent dye and the second probe is labeled with an energy acceptor fluorescent dye, and said change in fluorescence is caused by fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) from the energy donor fluorescent dye of the first probe to the energy acceptor fluorescent dye of the second probe.

12. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the selective separation in said third step of said live cells based on the change in fluorescence is performed by a cell sorter.

13. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein said mRNA is an mRNA encoding a cytokine.

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14. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the live cells selectively separated in said third step are T Helper 1 (TH1) cells.

15. (New) The method according to claim 10, wherein the live cells selectively separated in said third step are T Helper 2 (TH2) cells.